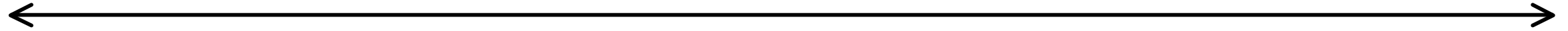


A school choice continuum...

Fewer parent choices

More parent



Concept	No choice options	Intra-district choice	Inter-district choice: case-by-case	Inter-district choice: open enrollment-type models	Other schooling options: magnets, charters, etc.	Limited school vouchers	Homeschooling / private schooling	Universal school vouchers
Description	Students attend the school assigned to them by local school districts.	Local school boards allow students a choice of schools <u>within</u> the district.	Students are allowed to attend school in another district on a case-by-case basis.	State law sets up a process whereby students can attend schools in other districts.	Other schooling options are made available to students beyond their local schools, such as charter and magnet schools	Parents are provided vouchers to use attend approved public or private schools.	Parents provide for the education of their children, either homeschooling them or paying private tuition.	Parents are provided with vouchers to attend any school of their choosing.
Who decides	District boundaries determine the district a student attends, local school boards determine the school.	The local school board.	The two school districts ultimately approve the transfer, with approval of parents.	It depends on the model, in most states, districts must allow students to transfer if proper procedures are followed.	State law typically establishes who can attend these schools. Magnets typically have admissions criteria, charters do not.	Typically, families can choose the school they wish to attend, though in Maine, there are binding tuition contracts in place in some areas.	Families direct the education of their children, whether by homeschooling or paying private school tuition.	In these models, families are typically allowed to choose the school.
Who pays	The local school district, with a combination of state and local dollars.	The local school district, with a combination of state and local dollars.	In Maine, state subsidy ultimately follows the student to the new district.	In most states, money follows the student in some way.	Money typically follows the student to a charter school, magnet schools are more commonly state or district funded.	In Maine, the local school unit pays up to a set amount, with a combination of state and local dollars.	Families, assuming they can afford to.	It depends on the model, but typically these are publicly funded.
Do we have this in Maine?	Yes. Unless they obtain a supt. transfer or attend a charter or magnet school, most students are not provided with choice options.	Yes, there are some districts that allow intra-district choice.	Yes, supt. transfers are done on a case-by-case basis. In Maine, parents can appeal denials of these transfers to the DOE.	No.	Yes. MSSM is the state's magnet school for math and science, there are two charter schools in operation at this time, with others seeking approval to open.	Sort of. In towns that do not provide their own K-12 schools, families choose from among approved public or private schools and the resident district pays the tuition.	Yes.	No.